

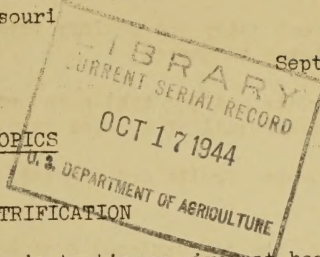
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Rural Electrification Administration
St. Louis 2, Missouri

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NEWSLETTER TOPICS

POSTWAR RURAL ELECTRIFICATION



Rural electrification has figured prominently in testimony given at hearings held in Washington, D. C., by the House of Representatives' Special Committee on Post-war Economic Policy and Planning.

In a statement covering various phases of the Department of Agriculture's postwar plans, Secretary of Agriculture Claude R. Wickard told the committee:

"The farm-family should enjoy a way of living comparable to that of a family of equal capacity and industry which derives its income from business or industry. Parity prices for farm products would be only one possible index of whether this aim were achieved. Parity income would be another yardstick. The objective also includes parity of public services and of facilities for rural people, such as housing, health services and hospitals, schools, and rural electrification. An adequate social security program for farm workers, including self-employed farm operators, also should be developed.

"Fortunately the means by which some of the agricultural objectives already mentioned can be reached tie in closely with the attainment of full national employment. Improved medical care, for example, is among the services most urgently needed if rural living is to be brought on a par with urban living. Development along that line, to be anywhere near adequate, would require the services of thousands of doctors and nurses, and the construction of hundreds of rural hospitals and dispensaries. There is great need for better rural housing. On less than a million of the nation's 6 million farms are the houses up even to a minimum adequacy measured by urban standards. More than a million rural homes are really beyond repair, and many other types of farm buildings need repairs or replacement. The possibilities of an expanded program of rural electrification are almost limitless. Electricity is needed both as a home convenience and as an aid to farm production. Despite all of the gains of the past ten years, only four out of every ten of the nation's farms yet have electricity. The remaining need opens a great field for development."

War Food Administrator Marvin Jones referred to rural electrification as follows in his statement to the House Committee:

"One of the great advantages of the construction of large dams (in the development of land and water resources) is the possibility of using them for the production of electric power not only for cities but flowing out of the country side to millions of farms that need it to lift the drudgery and burdens that are connected with the production of food. Produced and distributed in volume, electricity is one of the cheapest of commodities. It is one of the most useful. It affords an opportunity not only for making life easier and less burdensome, but also for bringing out a better-balanced condition for making our entire country a productive commonwealth. Some of our surplus war materials could be well used for expanding the rural electrification program."

ELECTRICAL REFRIGERATION

It is not too early to start thinking about the electrical refrigeration equipment you will want after the war. Although the quantity may be limited at first, manufacturers plan to have equipment available to fill the refrigeration needs of every family living on a rural power line. This equipment will make it possible for the rural family to:

Keep foods fresh for use on the family table.

Freeze and store meats, fruits and vegetables produced on the farm for home use.

Store frozen foods that the family may have to buy because they are not produced locally.

Store fresh dairy and poultry products, fruits and vegetables until they can be taken to market.

Store fruits and vegetables in order to obtain higher off-season prices that will prevail at a later date.

Freeze meats, fruits and vegetables to be sold as frozen foods in farmers' markets.

In addition to the conventional household refrigerator, there will be a postwar home refrigerator with a colder space for frozen foods. Small household frozen food storage cabinets also will be available. For farm use, there will be larger frozen food cabinets, combination freezers and frozen food storage cabinets, and the big walk-in refrigerators. Many of the walk-in refrigerators will be equipped for freezing and storing food. All these devices can be operated with fractional horsepower motors, except the walk-in refrigerators.

Why not sit down now and figure out what you will need? You will then be ready to obtain your refrigeration equipment as soon as it becomes available in this area.

ELECTRIC STOCK TANK HEATERS

The immersion-type electric poultry water warmer now on the market can make a satisfactory and economical stock tank heater when used in a small insulated tank equipped with a float-valve and directly connected to a pressure water line, according to experiments made in Indiana by Purdue University Experiment Station.

The University reports that a poultry water warmer will keep water ice-free in a 60-gallon tank insulated on the sides and bottom with four inches of mineral wool or its equivalent. To operate most economically, the tank should have an opening at the top only large enough to permit the stock to drink. The use of a hinged lid to completely cover the tank overnight during freezing weather will further reduce heat requirements. Because thermostats on most poultry water warmers do not switch off until the water reaches a temperature of 50-55 degrees F., either a hand-operated switch or special thermostat should be installed to turn off the current on warm days.

The Purdue University experiments showed that 100-watt heaters provide sufficient heat to maintain water ice-free in the coldest winter weather in Indiana. However, one test showed that additional heater capacity was required to melt ice frozen in the tank before the heaters were turned on.

For the farmer who may be unable to obtain a small metal stock tank because of wartime restrictions, the Purdue staff has devised a wooden tank made of 3/8-inch exterior grade plywood fastened to a frame built of two-by-fours. The inside of the tank is made watertight by sealing the seams with asbestos roofing cement.

MARCH OF TIME FARM PICTURE

We suggest that you watch for the announcement of the date when the March of Time's new picture, "Postwar Farms," will be shown at your local theater. This film should be of interest to every consumer on a REA-financed line, according to word received from the editors of the March of Time.

The picture emphasizes that rural electrification is one means whereby the small farm can meet the competition of the big industrialized farm. The first part of the film is a study of large-scale corporation farming in New Jersey, Georgia and on the West Coast. The second part of the film swings to a REA-financed rural electric cooperative, which makes it possible for farmers working together to do a job that would be too big for them individually. A cooperative in New York State, one of the newest of the 815 REA borrowers now operating rural electric lines, provides the setting. Scenes on electrified farms in New York State and Wisconsin are then shown, emphasizing the greater production efficiency attained through use of electrical equipment.

(Note to newsletter editors: If your local theaters have booked this film, change the first paragraph of this item to give the name of each theater and the date of showing).
